

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ERIE

October 11, 2014

ECLEG OCT13/14 10:43:30

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at the next regular session of the Erie County Legislature in 2014, to be held in County Hall in the City of Buffalo, the following is a true and accurate copy of a proclamation that will be adopted:

WHEREAS, On Saturday, October 6, 2014 having satisfactorily completed his assignment here on this earth, God mercifully called Russell Thomas Smith from his bed of affliction, home to be by HIS side, and

WHEREAS, Russell Smith was born, raised and educated in Buffalo, New York; after serving his country with distinction in the United States Army and being Honorably Discharged in 1968, Russell later received his Bachelor Science in Communication from Medaille College; Russell was a career New York State Civil Servant and worked at the Erie County Water Authority and a former Erie County Deputy Sheriff; he retired from the New York State Department of Labor as an Affirmative Action Administrator in 2011 and

WHEREAS, Russell Smith was an enigma, an extraordinary communicator and an undeniable genius whose bark was bigger than his bite; Russell was kind-hearted and complicated; his debate skills were unparalleled and his unique view of the world touched the hearts of many; he was a handsome man whose suave and debonair aura, coupled with his gift of gab, opened many doors of opportunity for himself and other African Americans and,

WHEREAS, Russell Smith was a God fearing man who loved the Lord, his family and his church, Calvary CME where he was Chairman of the Men's Ministry, the Men's Sunday School Teacher Ministry and the Finance Committee; Russell was also the former Vice Chair of the Republican Party, Board President of the Buffalo Halfway House, Vice President of B.U.I.L.D. and Board Vice President of Friends, Inc. and

WHEREAS, Russell Smith's kind and giving spirit, his wise counsel and encouragement, especially in times of trouble, will truly be missed; the brilliance of his smile and the warmth from his approval always seemed to make everything all right,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does herein extend its deepest sympathies to the Smith family on the loss of their beloved Russell Thomas Smith, and be it further

RESOLVED, that given the aforementioned, this Honorable Body finds it only fitting and proper to proclaim today, Saturday, October 11, 2014 as "Russell Thomas Smith Day" in the County of Erie.

Betty Jean Grant
Minority Leader of the Erie County Legislature
2nd District Legislator